

Appl. No. 10/661,317  
Atty. Docket No. 9033  
Amdt. dated February 13, 2006  
Reply to Office Communication of January 25, 2006  
Customer No. 27752

### REMARKS

#### Claim Status

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due. Claim 4 has previously been canceled without prejudice.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

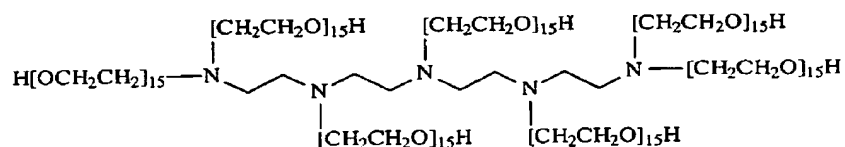
#### Response to Requirement for Restriction of Inventions

The Examiner has required, under 35 USC §121, election of a single disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits. Applicant has previously elected to prosecute the invention designated in the Office Action of October 24, 2005 as Invention I. This election is made without traverse. Claims 1-3 are drawn to this invention. Claim 4 has previously been canceled by this amendment as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

In the October 24, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner also required election of an ultimate species of components A and B. For the purposes of prosecution under Restriction Practice re Markush Claims of MPEP §803.02, Applicants provisionally elect the following species:

Compound A - The anionic polymer 5k MW terpolymer of acrylic acid, maleic acid, ethyl acrylate (70/10/20 w/w) shown as polymer g in Example 8 of the specification.

Compound B - The first modified polyamine polymer from the Markush group of Claim 2 having the formula:



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Conclusion

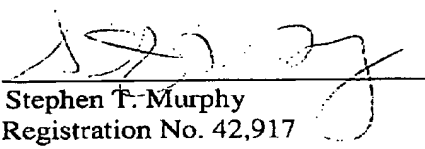
In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §121 and that prosecution of the above identified application proceed according to MPEP §803.02. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested. Applicants' attorney invites the Examiner to contact him by phone with any questions that may arise.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application and allowance of Claims 1-3 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 13, 2006  
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